DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

SP608 Motivation: Why do we do what we do?

Module Convenor

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Time and Location

Spring Term, Monday, Time 15:00 – 17:00, KLT4

Summary Intended Learning Outcomes

Know ledge and understanding of core concepts, theories and findings on motivation

Intellectual skill of critical reflection when considering the diversity of perspectives in the study of motivation

Critically evaluating the quality of theories, methods and findings in published research

Ability to evaluate through written analysis and interpretation the application of theory and research on motivation to real life situations

Introduction

This module provides an opportunity to study the literature on motivation, focussing on social-cognitive perspectives on human motivation. In this, we will consider In this, we will consider (a) What is experimental existential psychology?, (b) Does the unconscious exist? (c) The body, sex, and death, (d) drive, needs and motives, (e) intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, (f) personal goals, (g) achievement motivation, (h) The psychological function of religion, (i) The need to belong, (j) An existential perspective on close relationships, Theories addressed will include terror management theory, attachment theory, attribution theory, self-determination theory, control theory and self-regulation theory. Moreover, the module will introduce students to methods and measures applied in the field of research on human motivation. Finally, applications of theory and findings on human motivation to applied settings (e.g., educational or organisational settings) are discussed.

Assessment

Your attention is drawn to the following information to be found on the departmental website:

Regulations relating to coursework deadlines

www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/studying/learning-resources/assessment.htm#deadlines

Guidelines on plagiarism and duplication of material

www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/studying/learning-resources/plagiarism.htm

Guideline Criteria for Assessment of Stage 2 and 3 Undergraduate Work
Assessment details
Assessment for the module is by (a) coursework (20% of final mark) and (b) an extended essay of up to 6,000 words (80% of final mark). As part of the coursework (a), students are every week required to make an abstract (+/- one a4) of the weekly readings. In addition, students are required to formulate two new research questions, and one research question with a research design. For (b) the extended essay, students will have the possibility to choose 1 of the topics that are discussed during the module. Extended essays should first describe the central concepts of the essay topic and give a theoretical background, then provide a summary of key findings pertaining to an essay question, and finally present an outlook on future research. Please be sure to attach and complete the appropriate cover sheet, which should be stapled to your essay. The deadline for the extended essay is Wednesday, 25 March 2009, 12:00 noon.

Module Evaluation
You will be asked to provide feedback on this module by completing a module evaluation questionnaire. The questionnaires will be considered at a special meeting of the departmental Learning and Teaching Committee and the minutes of the meeting will be published on the departmental website at www.kent.ac.uk/psychology/local/minutes/ltc/index.htm.

Main Texts

Additional readings
Some Important Journals

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<tr>
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<th>Journal of Experimental Social Psychology</th>
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<tr>
<td>Journal of Applied Social Psychology</td>
<td>Psychological Bulletin</td>
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Teaching Programme

You should note that attendance at seminars and the submission of written work, are obligatory. For further information see the Faculty of Social Sciences Stage 2 and 3 Handbook.

Week 13  Genes, Culture and existential concerns: Why do we do what we do? (AW)
Week 14  Conscious or unconscious: Why did I do that ?(AW)
Week 15  Sex, babies and taboos: What has death to do with it? (AW)
Week 16  Achievement Motivation: Classical and contemporary approaches (JS)
Week 17  Reading week
Week 18  Self-Determination Theory: From Extrinsic to Intrinsic Motivation (JS)
Week 19  Perfectionism: Motivation for Perfection (JS)
Week 20  ‘I have a dream’: What motivates social change? (SS)
Week 21  There is more between heaven and earth: Why are people religious? (SS)
Week 22  All we need is love: Do we need love? (SS)
Week 23  Wrapping things up: conclusions and questions (AW)

Arnaud Wisman

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